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IC 77-2407

6 JAN 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR:

[redacted]  
Deputy to the DCI for the Intelligence  
Community

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FROM:

[redacted]  
Director of Performance Evaluation  
and Improvement

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SUBJECT:

NSC Meeting on Intelligence

1. The President has scheduled a meeting of the NSC on intelligence for the week of January 10. Although the meeting is billed as the semiannual NSC review of intelligence, we are told that the agenda will focus on two items:

- The competitive analysis of NIE 11-3/8-76
- OAG activities

2. The largely inaccurate press discussion of the competitive analysis will almost surely leave a distorted impression of the content of NIE 11-3/8-76 in the minds of senior Government officials, both outgoing and incoming. There will also be distorted views of the estimating process. Therefore, I recommend you strongly urge the DCI to take the following approach to the NSC meeting:

- Present a briefing to the NSC which clearly states the content of NIE 11-3/8-76 and the closely related NIE 11-4, which address Soviet strategic objectives. This briefing should also lay out the ways in which these estimates have or have not changed over the last year or two. The D/DCI/NI would, of course, be responsible for preparing this briefing. The DCI should also announce his intention to have a Community team present an expanded version of this briefing to senior Government officials, in order to ensure that press reports do not obscure the actual positions of the Community on the Soviet military threat.

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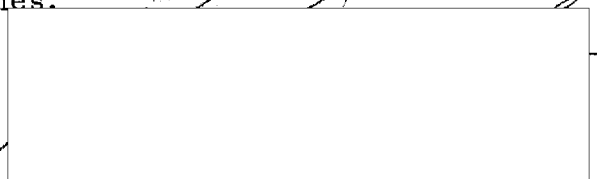
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-- With regard to the estimating process, the DCI should follow the briefing with remarks on the following topics:

- The effect of the B Team report in producing the rather harsh view of the Soviet threat taken in the current estimates (little effect, Community views have changed under the objective weight of evidence).
- User dissatisfaction with the NIE process (based on IC Staff semiannual review) and specific B Team charges about deficiencies in the estimating process (under review by NIOs, IC Staff, and Community elements).
- The problem of leaks and the unfortunate effects of the publicity attendant to the competitive analysis.
- Evaluation of the competitive analysis process evaluation (still under way, but probably want to retain the benefits of outside perspectives by using the Estimates Advisory Panel, rather than the costly adversary procedures of A and B Teams).

The IC Staff and the NIOs should work together to prepare talking points along these lines.

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